

Note: Listening is tedious and difficult. The key is trying to access the text progressively. Using the strategies below will help you understand new speech. Understanding new speech is one key to developing better skills in a language. Once you internalize these strategies, you will be able to use them during “live” speech.

When approaching any new listening:

(What is this? What general information? What are the details, HOW are they saying?)

1. Listen to the text once without reading along.
  - Listen for words you know
  - Based on the format and the words you know, what is this? (News report, documentary interview, reality tv, video blog, specialty show like cooking, etc.)
2. Listen to the text again without reading
  - List the words you recognize
3. Listen to the text while reading along. Mark the words you know in the text
  - What is the general idea of this text? (basic summary)
  - What is she talking about
4. Listen to the text again while reading.
  - What else might the speaker be saying?
  - What new details did you discover?
5. Listen to the text again while reading
  - What words are important? (they can be words you know or don't know)
  - How can you tell they are important?
  - Try to define important unknown words
    - use context, words that sound familiar, or roots
6. Pick 3-5 words that you will look up
  - why did you choose these words?
  - list the words and their definitions
  - try to define them in Arabic!
7. Try imitating the text
  - read aloud (focus on pronunciation and fluid reading)
  - use the new words in sentences of your own